

still holds the record for the most points and rebounds in a career. Once he completed his collegiate career, he went on to a successful career in the NBA.

After his retirement from professional basketball, Coach "K" moved to the other side of the bench and became an assistant coach. Eventually he found himself back home, as coach of the Griz. As head coach, Coach "K" instilled in his team that being a college athlete is about more than just playing a sport, it is about being a role model for a community. Nothing exemplifies this mentality more than when Coach "K" himself offered to have his head shaved in order to show support to a friend who had recently been diagnosed with cancer and to raise money for children who were battling the disease.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate each player on the roster, the coaching staff, Coach "K", and the entire University of Montana community for their magical season.

I ask that the list of coaches and team members be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

2005-2006 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Coaches: Larry Krystkowiak, Head Coach; Andy Hill; Brad Huse; and Wayne Tinkle.

Players: Mike Chavez; Kevin Criswell; Matt Dlouhy; Bryan Ellis; Jordan Hasquet; Matt Martin; Virgil Matthews; Stuart Mayes; John Seyfert; Kyle Sharp; Greg Spurgetis; Andrew Strait; Austin Swift; and Eric Van Vliet.●

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR FONTANEZ

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Victor Fontanez of Platte City, MO. Mr. Fontanez is a World War II veteran who served with distinction in Europe from 1942 to 1945.

Mr. Fontanez joined the Army in January of 1941, 11 months before the attacks on Pearl Harbor. He recognized the need for soldiers to answer the call, and swiftly volunteered for service wherever he could be used. Joining Company B, 47th Infantry Battalion, 9th Division, Mr. Fontanez was quickly shipped to North Africa where he participated in the larger Battle of Tunisia against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's vaunted Afrika Korps.

In April of 1943, near the town of El Guettar, his battalion was given orders to go over the top of an important hill. As he ran down the hill towards the enemy, a mortar shell exploded close to him, sending shrapnel into the left side of his body. Despite profuse bleeding, he continued on to the bottom of the hill and took cover near a large rock. Another mortar hit the rock, sending concussions through his body and making it difficult to breathe. After the attack, his fellow heroes helped him back to the headquarters, where he was patched up quickly and evacuated to an American hospital in Oran.

For the wounds he suffered that day, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

After his recovery, he was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division as a combat engineer. He was a crucial part of the landing forces at Salerno Bay, Italy. After securing their positions, they were given orders to help reinforce the Anzio beachhead, and then to take Velletri, one of the key cities that the Germans used in the defense of Rome. After the Nazis fell, his division marched through the streets of Rome to a hero's welcome. After the liberation of Rome, his division was sent off on ships to another crucial mission: the invasion of southern France.

It was during Operation Dragoon on the beaches of France that Mr. Fontanez would earn his highest award for valor. While the troops advanced inland from the landing area, a low-flying plane dropped a bomb onboard one of the ships in the bay, causing explosions and major fires.

After seeing a number of badly burned men jump from the ship with their clothes on fire—and with total disregard for his own safety—he entered the water and was able to swim several safely to shore.

For this selfless act of bravery, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

Later he rejoined his company and was able to help drive the Germans out of Cannes and Grenoble. Moving through the cold snow, they rested where they could. As Christmas 1944 approached, the 36th was hoping for a lull in fighting, but German forces launched an attack to the north. After successfully defending their positions, the 36th renewed the offense and crossed the Rhine River into Germany in late March 1945. It was shortly after this that Mr. Fontanez got his well-deserved rest, and was expedited home for extended leave.

Like so many of his generation, Mr. Fontanez's success extended beyond the battlefield. He fathered two children: a son, Victor, Jr., who is now a retired military officer; and a daughter, Edith, who currently lives in Platte City and works with Support Our Troops & Vets.

He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and great-grandfather of four, and counts a military chaplain, two Army soldiers, a Guardsman, an attorney, and a social worker in his lineage. Nearing 90 years of age, Victor Fontanez is a proud member and example of our "greatest generation," and should be commended for his bravery in helping secure the freedoms we all enjoy. On this day, I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in praising the service of this true hero, Victor Fontanez.●

IN MEMORY OF MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, California has lost a fine, young leader. Marco Antonio Firebaugh, former California Assembly majority floor leader,

representing the 50th assembly district, and chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, recently passed away. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Marco Antonio Firebaugh's many important accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made as a leader in California.

Born in Baja California, Mexico, Firebaugh served three terms as a member of the California State Assembly and one term as the majority floor leader. In 1998, he was first elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 50th assembly district. During his tenure, he fought for the rights of all Californians, including immigrants and their children, with passion and great success. Under his leadership, the California State Assembly passed legislation that focused on increasing the availability of education to all California residents.

He led the effort to appoint more qualified Latinos and Latinas to high-level positions in State government, including the appointment of only the second Latino to serve on the California Supreme Court, the first Latina to serve as chancellor of a University of California campus, and two additional Latino presidents at the California State Universities at Fresno and Sacramento.

Firebaugh worked strenuously to protect and defend the dignity of his constituents, regardless of their immigration status, and remained involved in community affairs after his departure from the California State Assembly. He served as a visiting professor and policy fellow at the UCLA School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture. Most recently, he decided to reenter public life, as a candidate for the California State Senate, 30th district, and gained the support of many local community leaders, including current 30th district State senator Martha Escutia. His dedication to his fellow Californians will be missed.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Marco Antonio Firebaugh for his guidance and leadership in fighting to improve the lives of all Californians. He is survived by his mother, Carmen Ramos Garcia; his children, Ariana and Nicolas; brothers, Carlos and Jesse; and sisters, Cecilia and Esmeralda.●

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SULLIVAN WILSON

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I rise to honor one of Connecticut's finest educators: Margaret Sullivan Wilson.

Peg Wilson is a lifelong resident of Norwich, CT. Throughout her life, she has been dedicated to serving the people of her native city, as well as improving educational opportunities for children in Connecticut and, indeed, in America.